

The Church

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “I will build my church.” or ecclesia. The word ecclesia in the New Testament means called out. God called Israel out of Egypt, and they congregated in the wilderness. They were the church of the wilderness. Today God calls the saved out of the world to congregate and worship. This is the church in the world, but not of it! (John 17:14-16) Unlike the church in the wilderness, the church that Jesus is building will never cease. Even the “gate of hell shall not prevail against it.” Only blood washed, born again, Spirit baptized believers constitute the church that Jesus is building.

Things we need to know about the church:

1. Founded on the Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-47
2. Builder is Christ Matthew 16:18
3. Foundation is Christ 1 Corinthians 3:11
4. Head is Christ Ephesians 5:23
5. Officials in the church:
 - a. Pastor/ Elder/ Bishop/Overseer
 - i. Given by God - Jeremiah, 3:15
 - ii. Qualifications -1 Timothy 3:1-7,
 - b. Deacons
 - i. 1 Timothy 3:8-13
 - ii. Philippians 1:1
6. Ordinances of the Church
 - a. Baptism
 - i. Does not have saving power
 - ii. Act of obedience
 - iii. Commanded by Jesus Christ- Matthew 28:19, Mark16:15-16
 - iv. Practiced by the Early Church - Acts 2:37-47
 - b. Communion/ The Lord’s Supper
 - i. It is a remembrance of Christ -1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-29

- ii. It is a proclamation of His death - 1 Corinthians 11:26
- iii. It is assurance of Christ's Second Coming- Matthew 26:29
- iv. Requirements
 - 1. Regeneration-You must be born again
 - 2. Cleansing before taking- 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

7. The Mission of the Church

- i. To Bear Witness to the Truth
 - 1. 1 Timothy 3:15
- ii. To Make Known the Manifold Wisdom of God
 - 1. Ephesians 3:10
- iii. To Bring Eternal Glory to God
 - 1. Ephesians 3:20-21
- iv. To Edify Its Members
 - 1. Ephesians 4:11-13
- v. To Evangelize the World
 - 1. Matthew 28:18-20